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KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1952

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KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1952

Kidderminster Rural District Council

Chairman:
COUNCILLOR A. PARDOE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:
COUNCILLOR H. DOOLITTLE, C.C.

COUNCILLOR C. BLOUNT
,, J. DICKINSON
,, W. ENSOR
,, E. EVANS
,, H. HINGLEY, J.P.
,, A. E. HOBSON
,, G. LEE
,, G. N. PERCIVAL-HUMPHRIES, J.P., C.C.
,, W. H. KIMBERLEE, J.P.
,, J. POWICK
,, G. F. PRATT
,, E. SMITH
,, T. O. WILSON
,, H. E. HICKTON.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health:
R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer:
R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

Assistant: C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk:
Miss J. E. MANTLE

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer: B. B. NORMAN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year 1952.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid 1952	11,980
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1952	3,623
Rateable Value	£69,215
Sum represented by a penny rate	£263

Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in Kidderminster, and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics.

				1952	1951
Births.		Males	Females	Total	Total
(a) Live Births:	Legitimate ...	106	89	195	170
	Illegitimate ...	4	3	7	9
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population				16.9	15.04
Birth rate for England and Wales				15.3	15.5
		Males	Females	Total	Total
(*b*) Still Births:	Legitimate ...	1	2	3	5
	Illegitimate ...	0	0	0	0
Deaths.		Males	Females	Total	Total
(*a*) No. registered for District ...		53	40	93	135
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				7.8	11.3
Death rate for England and Wales				11.3	12.5
(*b*) Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				14	22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...				0	0
(*c*) Maternal Mortality				0	0
(*d*) Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age)				5	6
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:					
All Infants per 1,000 live births				24.3	33.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				15.4	27.9
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births				27.6	29.6

Causes of Death.

		M.	*F.*
2	Tuberculosis, Non-Respiratory	1	–
6	Meningococcal infections	1	–
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	–	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	–	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	4	1
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	–	1
16	Diabetes	–	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	5
18	Coronary disease, angina	9	4
19	Hypertension with heart disease	3	1
20	Other Heart diseases	5	10
21	Other circulatory disease	1	1
23	Pneumonia	1	2
24	Bronchitis	3	3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	–	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	–
31	Congenital malformations	1	–
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5
33	Motor vehicle accidents	3	–
34	All other accidents	2	–
35	Suicide	1	–
All causes	... ...	53	40

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and of Miss J. E. Mantle as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, and operates from Kidderminster.

Nursing at Home.

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors, an additional Nurse having been appointed for Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown and Broome. Two other District Nurses also deal with portions of the Area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are four Infant Welfare Centres in the Area—at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley and Chaddesley Corbett, where Immunisation and Vaccination is carried out.

The Welfare Centres at Wribbenhall and Hagley are also used by residents of the Area.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area.

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanitorium treatment where possible. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6 p.m., and Thursday at 2 p.m., at the Kidderminster General Hospital, when Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Committee.

Venereal Disease.

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council own approximately 70 miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural District is supplied by:—

(1) The Council's Borehole at Cookley.

(2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.

(3) The Stourbridge Water Board.

The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

At regular intervals throughout the year the Sanitary Inspector submitted samples of water from the three main sources for chemical and bacteriological examination by the County Analyst. All the samples were satisfactory. The following are copies of the Analyst's Certificates on three samples submitted to him.

Report of the County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Borehole water contained in W. Qt. Bottle Marked Cookley Borehole, The Lock Inn, Wolverley, Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on the 6th August, 1952.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically with the following results :—

Physical Characters.	Slightly Opalescent.
Odour.	None.
Deposit.	Slight; Brown. pH. 7.0

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C)	Trace
Solids in Solution (dried at 180°C)	25
Solids in Solution after Ignition	23
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	4.4
Hardness Total	13
Hardness Permanent	5
Hardness Temporary	8
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0012
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.45
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N/80 Permanganate)	0.013
Toxic Metals	None detected

Note.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Opinion:—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,

County Analyst.

13*th August*, 1952.

Bacteriological Examination Report.

Probable No. coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C	Nil per 100 ml.
Probable No. faecal coli	Nil per 100 ml.

Fit for drinking.

R. J. HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B.

8th August, 1952.

~~*8th August*, 1952.~~

Report of the County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Elan Valley Supply Water contained in W. Qt. Bottle. Marked Arley Road, Upper Arley. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on 16th May, 1952.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically with the following results :—

Physical Characters.	Clear.
Odour.	None.
Deposit.	None. pH 8.1.

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C)	None
Solids in Solution (dried at 180°C)	6
Solids in Solution after Ingition	5
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	2.1
Hardness Permanent	1
Hardness Temporary	1
Hardness Total	2
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0012
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.15
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N80 permanganate)	0.13
Toxic Metals	None detected
Total residual chlorine	0.001

Note.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Opinion:—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,
County Analyst.

24*th May*, 1952.

Bacteriological Examination Report.

Probable No. coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C.	Nil per 100 ml.
Probable No. faecal coli	Nil per 100 ml.

R. J. HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B.

19*th May*, 1952.

Report of the County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Stourbridge Water Board water contained in W. Qt. Bottle, Marked Belbroughton Road, Blakedown. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on 6th August, 1952.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically with the following results:—

Physical Characters.	Clear.	
Odour.	None.	
Deposit.	None.	pH 7.2.

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C)	None
Solids in Solution (dried at 180°C)	31
Solids in Solution after Ignition	26
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	5.8
Hardness Permanent	6
Hardness Temporary	15
Hardness Total	21
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.77
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C (N/80 Permanganate)	Nil
Toxic Metals	None detected

Note:—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Opinion:—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,

County Analyst.

12*th August*, 1952.

Bacteriological Examination Report.

Probable No. coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C.	Nil per 100 ml.
Probable No. faecal coli	Nil per 100 ml.

Fit for drinking.

R. J. HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B.

8*th August*, 1952.

WATER SUPPLIES TO HOUSES IN THE RURAL DISTRICT

Parish	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies e.g. wells, springs, etc.	
	Direct to houses		By means of Standpipe			
	No. of dwelling houses	Population	No. of dwelling houses	Population	No. of dwelling houses	Population
Wolverley	874	3159	223	713	53	169
Upper Arley	70	224	119	380	107	341
Ribbesford	6	19	—	—	18	57
Churchill and Blakedown	325	1037	5	16	28	89
Rock	409	1431	158	505	110	350
Broome	45	144	—	—	22	70
Stone	72	230	—	—	53	160
Rushock	—	—	—	—	40	126
Kidderminster Foreign	78	250	207	662	77	246
Chaddesley Corbett ..	387	1354	67	214	68	213
Totals	2266	7848	779	2490	576	1821

The above figures are approximate. Included in the 779 houses supplied from standpipes are several areas of bungalow development and a " squatters " camp.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Work on the main sewerage scheme for the villages of Wolverley and Cookley is progressing steadily.

The situation in the village of Chaddesley Corbett is unchanged since my last report, and it is considered essential for the health of the inhabitants of the village that a satisfactory system of drainage be installed at the earliest possible moment. It will be seen from the Sanitary Inspector's Report that every effort is made to alleviate the unsatisfactory conditions which exist.

In those areas where the provision of a sewerage scheme cannot be forseen work has continued on the conversion of insanitary privies and pail closets to water carriage or some other satisfactory system.

River Pollution.

The River Stour, which runs throught the District, has shown no improvement during the past year. The pollution entering upstream appears to be as great as ever. It is hoped that the authorities concerned will take some active and energetic steps to remedy this.

All existing sewerage schemes have proved satisfactory during the year.

SUMMARY OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Parish	Houses connected to a public sewer	Population served	No. of houses with		
			Pails	Cess pits, etc.	Private installations
Wolverley ...	270	874	480	590	214
Upper Arley ...	—	—	102	152	44
Ribbesford ...	—	—	12	12	12
Churchill and Blakedown ...	213	682	36	63	72
Rock	32	102	198	425	202
Broome ...	—	—	10	15	52
Stone	12	38	60	73	40
Rushock ...	—	—	33	33	7
Kidderminster Foreign ...	16	51	230	101	36
Chaddesley Corbett ...	102	357	120	242	185
Totals ...	645	2104	1281	1706	864

All shacks, etc., have been included as dwellings. Few of them have drainage arrangements.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	603
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	617
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	246
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	215
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	207

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 121

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—	
	(*a*) By Owners	1
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:	
	(*a*) By Owners	12
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been made fit.	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding.

Although there is still a considerable degree of overcrowding in the Area, the year has seen some improvement. The Council's Housing Programme, as previously stated, cannot keep pace with the demand.

No. of Applications, 1st January, 1952	718
No. of houses erected during the year	91
No. of Applications, 31st December, 1952	491

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(*a*) Milk Supply.

(*b*) Meat and Other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report deals with these matters.

The Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council.

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning during the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

Immunisations against Diphtheria.

The importance of early immunisation of infants against diphtheria, and the necessity for a reinforcing dose on entering school is constantly brought to the notice of all parents. The response has been fairly satisfactory, but there is still room for improvement.

A further 124 children under 5 years and 40 children from 5 to 14 years of age were given primary courses of treatment during the year, and 139 were given booster doses.

No cases of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1952 are set out in the following table.

Disease	AGE IN YEARS							Total No. of Cases	No. of cases admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	0–	1–	3–	5–	10–	15–	25 and over			
Measles	1	12	15	47	6	4	2	87	4	–
Whooping Cough ...	2	4	6	4	1	–	–	17	2	–
Scarlet Fever	–	1	–	6	3	–	–	10	4	–
Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	-
Pneumonia	1	3	–	4	–	2	11	21	–	3
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	2	2	–
Meningococcoil Infections ...	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	2	1	1
Totals	4	20	22	61	12	6	16	141	14	4

Tuberculosis.

Six cases were notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1—	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–
5—	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15—	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
25—	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
35—	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
45—	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
55—	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
65 and upwards	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals ...	3	2	1	–	–	–	1	–

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Conclusion.

It is very pleasing to note the good progress made by the Council with the provision of adequate housing, water supplies and sewerage in the District. Existing services have proved satisfactory, but much remains to be done in all these fields even when proposed schemes have reached completion. One of the most urgent problems facing the Council is to bring the general level of housing and sanitation in the village of Cookley up to a satisfactory standard.

In the absence of further legislation under the Rent Restriction Acts, we shall continue to experience great difficulty in bringing the older type of cottage property in the District up to modern requirements. However, action will be taken whenever possible.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1952

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Number of visits made to premises re cases of infectious disease and disinfection : 68.

Disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out where necessary by means of disinfectant and formaldehyde lamps.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat.

All meat sold in the shops in the district comes from the Central Slaughterhouse in the Borough of Kidderminster.

It is pleasing to report that it has not been necessary to take any action with regard to any of the supplies.

The Butchers have maintained their premises in a satisfactory condition throughout the year.

No meat was condemned during the year.

Milk.

Close contact has been maintained with all milk distributors in the area and no infringements of the Regulations have been met with.

The supply of heat treated milk by dealers from other districts is rapidly increasing with a consequent reduction in the quantity of raw milk consumed in the district. The majority of the raw milk is now supplied in bottles.

Other Foods.

All food premises in the area have been inspected regularly and it has been found that the shopkeepers have done their best to comply with the Byelaws. The majority of our village shops have been established for many years and their structural conversion to modern standards is very difficult. The Council are progressing with their sewerage schemes for several villages and this will make the position much easier with regard to sanitary accommodation.

The following was condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

Sardines	54 tins.
Prunes	163½ lbs.
Pears (tinned)	24 lbs.
Sandwich Spread	16 jars
Fish Paste	27 tins
Tomato Ketchup	½ gallon
Tomato Soup	3 tins
Tomato Paste	18 lbs.
Cocoa	37 lbs.
Curry Powder	2 lbs.

Ice Cream.

Having only two small manufacturers of ice cream, the vast majority of ice-cream sold in the district comes from large concerns in other areas. This ice-cream is almost invariably supplied to the customer in cartons or wrappings.

It has not been necessary to draw attention to any infringements during the year.

Cafes, etc.

All cafes, etc., have been inspected and on the whole there has been little of which to complain. The majority of the premises with catering licences are existing country cottages serving occasional meals.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of unexpired licences in force	25

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register, December, 1952	8
Inspections	32
Informal Notices served	Nil
Statutory Notices served	Nil

Contraventions Remedied :—

Limewashing	4
Dirty Floors	1

CANAL BOATS.

The canal which runs through the area is now entirely unused.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

On 18th June, the Council took delivery of a new 8 cubic yard S.D. Freighter and as from that date refuse collection in the Rural Area has been carried out by two Council lorries and one Contractors lorry.

The built-up areas have received fortnightly collections and the sparsely populated areas monthly collections. Collections have again suffered because of the lack of a tip in the Blakedown area involving hauls to Wolverley tip of some six to seven miles. Every endeavour should be made to solve this problem.

In spite of its excessive use the Wolverley tip has given excellent service and caused no nuisance.

The following are the details of the number of loads dealt with :

Tipped at Wolverley	1032	loads
Tipped at Lodgeford Hill	419	„
Tipped at Trimpley	185	„
Tipped at Gorst Hill	178	„
Tipped at Organs Hill	97	„
	1911	loads

Night Soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night soil is made from Chaddesley Corbett Village. The work is done by a local contractor, who uses a motor lorry provided with suitable bins for the carriage of the night soil. No complaints have been received with regard to the manner in which this work is done.

The Council's proposed Sewerage Scheme for the village will render this service unnecessary, but as a temporary measure the system is as efficient as possible.

Number of pail closets emptied per week : 87.

Cesspools.

Pending the installation of the Council's proposed sewers, nuisances from overflowing cesspools have again been dealt with by the use of a hired cesspool emptying vehicle. 190 cesspools have been emptied at the owners' expense, and the service has been considerably extended.

CAMPING SITES.

Number of large sites which were used for camping Purposes (approximately)	25
Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	2
Estimated number of campers resident in the Area at any one time during the summer of 1952	2500
Inspections made	52

Once again the camping sites were well patronised during the season. Inspections made at the peak periods showed that there was a continued improvement in camping methods. The ready co-operation of the owners of the sites prevented any serious nuisance arising.

WATER SUPPLY.

General.

Number of samples submitted for analysis	57
Number of samples found to be unfit or unsuitable ...	18
Number of samples found to be fit	39

Council's Borehole, Cookley.

Number of samples submitted for chemical examination	4
Number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination	8
Number of samples found to be chemically of good quality and fit for drinking	4
Number of samples found to be bacteriologically of good quality and fit for drinking	8

The water from the Borehole shows little variation in physical character and chemical composition.

For specimens of Analyst's Reports see Medical Officer of Health's Report.

HOUSING.

1952 saw excellent progress with the Council's Housing Programme, 91 houses being erected as compared with 42 in 1951. This enabled the Council to deal with the majority of the very serious cases on the Waiting List and it is now apparent that most applicants now requiring accommodation are young married couples (with or without children) living in rooms.

It must be remembered however, that the Council will shortly be faced with the problem of re-housing families from houses which are waiting to be dealt with under the Housing Acts. In the main, this will affect the parish of Cookley where the general housing standard is low.

The situation with regard to applications at the end of the year is shown in the following table :—

Parish	*No. of applications*
Rock	55
Stone	25
Arley	47
Kidderminster Foreign	21
Wolverley	115
Cookley	88
Churchill and Blakedown and Broome	87
Chaddesley Corbett	44
Rushock	9
Total	491

COMPLAINTS.

Number of complaints received	429

Summary of Complaints.

Housing Defects	94
Defective and choked drainage	206
Miscellaneous	129

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1952

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows :—

Number of premises inspected	3402
Bakehouses	32
Caravans and Movable Dwellings	96
Dairies	41
Fried Fish Premises	14
Infectious Disease	68
Overcrowding	336
Premises where animals are kept	90
Schools	6
Water Courses	56
Water Supply	267
Workshops	1
Provision of Dustbins	67
Miscellaneous	901
Refuse Collection	1753

SANITARY WORK.

Interior of Houses.

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants	9
Verminous houses dealt with	7

Yards and Outbuildings.

Dirty yards and W.C's cleansed by tenants	27
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc. ...	140

Drainage

Yard gullies cleansed by tenants	102
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	176
Defective drains repaired	62
New drains provided	41
Glazed stoneware gullies provided	29
Inspection chambers provided to drains	12
Overflowing cesspools cleansed and repaired	251
Inspection chambers repaired and provided with new air-tight covers	12
Glazed sinks provided	9
Cesspools abolished	37

Water Closets.

New Water Closets erected	16
Additional W.C's provided	1
Foul and obstructed W.C's cleansed	214
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired	27
Water Closets repaired	67
Water Closets provided with new basins	12
Defective water supply to W.C's remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)	102
Conversions:—	
Conversion of privies to W.C's	2
Conversion of pail closets to W.C's	17

Urinals.

Urinals cleansed and repaired	6

Privies and Pail Closets.

New pans provided to pail closets	29

Ashpits and Dustbins.

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	16
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants ...	19
Ashpits abolished	6

Various.

Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	18
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	29
Miscellaneous nuisances dealt with	346
Nuisances on highways	2

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

No. of infestations dealt with at private houses ...	75
No. of infestations dealt with on business premises ...	2
No. of other infestations dealt with	8
No. of complaints received	43

Sewers.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewers at Blakedown and Wolverley were test baited during the year with satisfactory results.

Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee.

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent, and our thanks are due to all concerned.

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Sanitary Inspector.

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